V9 P1

Roxbury, March 10, 1876.

My Dear Wendell:

Accept my thanks for your sympathetic and thoughtfully expressed letter in reply to mine, concerning the bereavement which comes to us all so closely. As Pierpont wrote so pathetically about the darling little boy that he lost — "I cannot make him dead" — so it is difficult for me, even at this late hour, to realize that she who went hand in hand with me through more than forty years of wedded life has seen "the last of earth." But I am blessed with as dear and affectionate children as any parent (bereaved or otherwise) could desire, and I know they will try to make the vacancy thus created as small as possible by their never failing filial attentions to all my needs. How the dear departed one is feeling in regard to us all, it is not difficult to

conjecture. No matter where she is, or what may be her surroundings, it cannot be that her thoughts are not lovingly drawn to us; and it is certainly pleasant to believe that it may be possible for her to see and be with us as really as in the past.

I am slowly gaining upon my ailment, my cough being much easier, my expectoration much less, though the catarrhal discharge of mucous from the head is equally abundant and annoying. I seem to be laboring under a powerful attack of old fashioned influenza. I took a short walk out-doors a week ago, but have not been out of the house since, in consequence of the harshness of the temperature. By the time, however, it will be safe and seasonable to make you a visit at the Park (which I am longing to do), I hope to be quite restored. I still get but very little sleep. Were it not for this drawback, I should improve much faster. It is much in my favor that my appetite is good, and I relish what I eat.

* I wrote & asked Roselwood to send me some sample portraits. I hale probably receive them to-morrow

I believe Frank has communicated to you the fact that I have had a legacy of £200 sterling left me by an estimable Scotch lady, Mrs. Janet Hamilton, of Glasgow. I presume that she participated in the struggle for the abolition of West India slavery, and perhaps in sending contributions to our Anti-Slavery Bazaar in Boston. I shall endeavor to learn something more of her history, and how it happened that she came to remember me in this generous manner. Of course, it is a most unexpected gift, and it will come at a most opportune period — about the first of June. It will be sufficient, doubtless, to cover all the expenses of your mother's sickness, death and burial, the purchase of a family lot at Forest Hills Cemetery, and the publication of the Memorial pamphlet.

Frank has received your letter this morning, concerning Mr. Boon and the Liberators, and desires me to say that he will shortly attend to the matter. He is waiting to hear from Mr. Rockwood.+

× I wrote & asked Rockwood to send me some sample portraits, shall probably receive them to-morrow.

You suggest the expediency of my leaving the portrait of myself, by Billings, to the Newburyport Library. If I had no other reason, my modesty would prevent my doing so. But as it is the most satisfactory portrait that has been taken of me, I shall wish it to remain in the custody of some one of my children. I shall be glad of a good opportunity to present some books to the Library aforesaid.

We have just had a little scare. Harold has been tampering with some matches in the spare chamber, and accidentally set fire to a towel which he tried in vain to ~~extin~~ prevent burning. An alarm was given by William's little Franky, and no other damage was done than scorching the wall paper a little.

A scene of Belknaps will not make me believe that the Republican party means to connive at official corruption.

Rejoicing to hear of dear Lucy's improved health, and with affectionate regards to you all, I remain, always,

Your loving Father.